

such as one to eight, and then stops for a second or so, just to enable the Member to put supplementary questions, if any, and then proceeds with the next group of questions, so that the whole thing is over in a very short time. Of course, we have no provision for supplementary questions here. I shall now take up the interpellations.

INTERPELLATIONS AND ANSWERS.

INTERPELLATION.

Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai.

I. 1. (i) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a statement of foreigners *i. e.*, persons other than born subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja, who are at present in Travancore Government Service drawing a salary of Rs. (50) fifty or above, showing:—

- (a) their names and qualifications;
- (b) their nationality, whether Europeans, subjects of British India or of Native States;
- (c) the dates of their entertainment in the Travancore Public Service;
- (d) their pay and designation at the time of such entertainment;
- (e) their present official designation and pay including personal and other allowances; and
- (f) the reasons, if any, for the preference shown them over the claims of His Highness' born subjects?

(ii) Are there posts in Travancore Public Service that are reserved for foreigners only? If so, what are they?

(iii) Are the Government aware that there is a strong public opinion in the country against the entertainment on a large scale of foreigners in the Public Service, on the ground of their having no vested interest in the State?

(iv) Will the Government be pleased to state now their policy in the matter of appointment in the Travancore Public Service of persons who are not born subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja?

2. II. (i) Are the Government aware

(a) that, in the Southern Division, as in all other places, there is an abnormal rise in the prices of all commodities;

(b) that paddy is the chief agricultural produce of the above locality, it being the only source of income to most of the cultivators;

ANSWER.

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Ravi.

Information has been called for and will be laid on the table when received.

There are no Civil appointments in the State Service specially reserved for foreigners, except those of Special Magistrates and the Special Appellate Judge to try and dispose of cases relating to offences committed by European British Subjects. These Special Magistrates and the Special Appellate Judge have to be under the existing law themselves European British Subjects.

Government are aware that there is some public feeling and have taken note of it.

The Member is referred to Articles 40 and 40 A of the Travancore Service Regulations, which regulate the policy of Government in this matter.

Secretary Mr. K. Narayanan Pandalay.

The answer is in the affirmative, so far as the prices of food grains and piece-goods are concerned. It is understood that the prices of several other commodities have also gone up.

The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Government, however, are not in a position to say that paddy is the only source of income to most of the cultivators.

INTERPELLATION.

(c) that the Government by placing restrictions on the free transport of paddy and rice from the said locality to other parts of the State, are artificially preventing a sympathetic rise in the prices of these commodities against the interests of the local cultivators;

(d) that the present system of transport by permits, benefits neither the producers in the Southern Division nor the consumers outside, but mainly those middlemen who are fortunate in obtaining permits from the Director of Civil Supplies;

(e) that within the Madras Presidency all similar restrictions have lately been removed with beneficial results?

(ii) Will the Government now be pleased to take away the said restriction, so as to remove the disabilities imposed on the cultivators of paddy in the Southern Division alone and so as to allow unrestricted competition among the dealers in the State, of local rice and paddy, for the benefit of the consumers outside the Southern Division?

3. III. Has the Government received any proposals from the Darbar Physician to locate a Hospital for consumptives at Cape Comorin? If so, will the Government be pleased to refuse sanction to the proposal in consideration of the neighbourhood of an important temple visited by thousands of people every month from all parts of India, and of the fact that the place itself is growing in importance as a place of pilgrimage, and in view also of the extreme variability of its temperature and climatic conditions and the powerful east wind laden with moisture and fine particles of sand and dust?

Mr. John Nidiry.

4. I. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state why there is so much delay in introducing a Bill into the Legislative Council either on the lines suggested by the Jenmi Kudiyan Commission or on other lines?

(b) Are not the Government aware from the representations made at the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and in the Public Press that both the Jenmies and Kudiyaus are dissatisfied at the long delay?

5. II. (a) In keeping with the recent reforms in the Travancore Legislative Council and also in view of the administrative reforms made in British India and other Native States, do not the Government feel the want of an Executive Council in Travancore?

(b) Are the Government sufficiently aware of the strong public opinion for the establishment of such a Council?

ANSWER.

The answer is in the affirmative. The control, however, is so regulated that the price of paddy in the Southern Division is not allowed to fall below Rs. 10-8-0 per *kottu*, which, in the opinion of Government, is a fair price, regard being had to all circumstances.

The answer is in the negative. The fact is that the sale of the Southern Division rice outside that Division is given on contract to the lowest tenderers and that this rice is actually sold in Trivandrum at rates much lower than would be justified by the market price in the Southern Division. Government also understand that the present contractor, far from making undue profit, has lost heavily on his contract.

The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. According to the information of Government, it is not a fact that the removal of these restrictions has had beneficial results in the Madras Presidency.

Government will consider the Member's suggestion of removing these restrictions.

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

The late Darbar Physician, Dr. Perkins, brought to the notice of Government the desirability of providing a sanitarium for the housing and treatment of persons suffering from tuberculosis and of locating it on the high land at the 53rd mile on the Nagercoil-Cape road. The subject is now under correspondence with the present Darbar Physician. The aspect of the question presented by the Member will be borne in mind.

Secretary Mr. K. Narayanan Pandalay.

(a) and (b). The Member is referred to G. O. No. L. 487, dated the 1st April 1920, published on pages 348 and 349 of Part I of the Gazette dated the 6th April 1920. The subject is one that requires careful consideration and cannot be hurried through.

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Row.

(a) and (b). The answer is in the negative.